

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as filed on May 24, 2006, in the paragraph starting at page 3, line 20, and ending at page 4, line 10, as follows:

By taking into consideration of the aforementioned object, the inventors found out that, if 12-hydroxy lithium stearate having an average particle diameter of from 5 μm to 100 μm with a composition of from 0.3 wt% to 2 wt% as a lubricant is mixed to the raw material powder in powder metallurgy, the flowing property of the raw material powder at a time of heating at a temperature exceeding 150°C does not deteriorate, and higher lubricating and pressing properties at a time of pressing-molding than those of a case of using lithium stearate can be obtained. In addition, generally, it is well known that the 12-hydroxy lithium stearate is used to increase adhesiveness of grease. In powder metallurgy, the 12-hydroxy lithium stearate is simply used to be mixed to a lubricating component having a melting point below warm molding temperature. Therefore, a case of using a single 12-hydroxy lithium stearate has not been known.